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DURSLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1940.

Medical Officer of Health - J.H. Kitson, M.B.,M.R.C.S.,D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector - W.H. Williams, M.R.S.I.

SECTION A. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (acres)		26,905
Population (Census, 1931)...		14,400
(Estimated) 1940...	(a)	16,400
	(b)	16,400
Number of inhabited houses (Census, 1931) ...		3,788
(end of 1940) ...		4,878
Rateable Value		59,621
Sum represented by a penny rate		£235

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	Total.	M.	F.
Live Births -			
Legitimate	252	131	121
Illegitimate	2	1	1

Birth Rate: 15.5

Still Births (all legitimate) ...	12	7	5

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births: 45.1

Deaths	221	97	124

Comparability Factor: 0.99
Death Rate: 13.3

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth

from sepis.. ... 0
From other causes. 3

RATE per 1000 total (live and still) births - 11.3

Deaths of infants under one year -

	Total.	M.	F.
	8	4	4
Legitimate	7	4	3
Illegitimate	1	0	1

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All Infants per 1000 live births - 31
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births - 28
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births - 500.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)...	0
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years)...	0
" " Cancer (all ages)	32

Social Conditions of the District.

These remain the same as in previous years.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1940.

DISEASE.	M.	F.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers.	0	0
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	1	1
3. Scarlet Fever	0	0
4. Whooping Cough	0	0
5. Diphtheria	0	0
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	3	3
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	0	0
8. Syphilitic diseases	0	0
9. Influenza	6	6
10. Measles	0	0
11. Ac. Polio-myel, and polio-enceph,	0	0
12 Ac. inf. enceph.	0	0
13. Cancer of b. cav. and oesoph (M) uterus (F)	0	3
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	6	1
15. Cancer of breast	0	3
16. Cancer of other sites	11	8
17. Diabetes	1	1
18. Intracranial vascular lesions	8	15
19. Heart disease	20	33
20. Other diseases of circ. system	1	4
21. Bronchitis	8	13
22. Pneumonia	4	2
23. Other respiratory diseases	0	3
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	0
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	0	0
26. Appendicitis	0	0
27. Other digestive diseases	2	1
28. Nephritis	2	2
29. Puer. and post-abort. sepsis	0	0
30. Other maternal causes	0	3
31. Premature birth	2	1
32. Con. mal.;birth inj.; infant. dis.	1	2
33. Suicide	0	0
34. Road traffic accidents	3	0
35. Other violent causes	3	5
36. All other causes	14	14
TOTALS	97	124

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Staff.

As from 1st February 1940 the Sanitary Inspector was relieved of the duties of Surveyor and with the consent of the Ministry of Health his salary as Sanitary Inspector was increased to the amount previously paid to him as Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

In December your M.O.H. reported that the travelling arrangements made by the Sanitary Inspector were unsatisfactory owing to the size of the Rural District and the infrequent bus services and it was resolved that his travelling allowance be increased from £50 to £70 per annum on condition that he provide and maintain a motor car.

No changes have been made in the following services:-

(a) Laboratory facilities.
(b) Ambulance facilities.
(c) Nursing in the home.
(d) Hospitals.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) Water Supply.

(a) The North Nibley water scheme from Millend Stream was completed on 3rd October and is working satisfactorily.

Date of loan sanction	6th October, 1939.
Amount	£6440.

(b) Nympsfield Water Scheme.

Date of loan sanction	7th June 1939.
Amount	£3070
Date scheme completed	4th June, 1940.

The water for this supply is obtained from the Caswell Springs and boosted by means of hydrautomats to a supply reservoir at Nympsfield.

(c) The piped supplies are controlled by chemical and bacteriological examination and 17 samples were submitted during the year. All were satisfactory with the exception of the Coaley supply.

Coaley Water Supply.

A sample of water taken from the stand pipe near Hammer Mills was submitted for examination on 17th September and the analyst reported as follows:-

The sample contains (parts per 100,000):-

Total Dissolved Solids	28.6
Combined Chlorine	1.7
Nitrogen present as Nitrates	0.056
Nitrogen present as Nitrites	Absent
Mineral Ammonia	Absent
Organic Ammonia	Absent
Oxygen required to oxidise the organic matter in three hours	None
Temporary Hardness	19.5
Permanent Hardness	5.0
Total Hardness	24.5

Bacteriological Examination.

Micro-organisms in one cubic centimetre capable of growing on Agar at 22°C. in 3 days	260
Micro-organisms in one cubic centimetre capable of growing on Agar at 37°C. in 48 hours	113
B. Coli. Present in 25 cubic centimetres. Absent in 20 cubic centimetres.	

Microscopic Examination.

Does not show the presence of any sediment.

Remarks.

The analysis shows that whilst this water is free from serious contamination, the bacteriological condition is such that it cannot be regarded as a first class water.

I should recommend that an examination should be made in order to determine what improvements can be carried out.

Further samples were taken 4th October, 6th November, 6th December and after the collecting chambers and reservoir had been cleaned out and new manhole covers provided and fixed the following reports were received on samples taken on 13th May, 1941.

Source.

Bacteriological examination.	No.1 Spring.	No.2 Spring.
Number of colonies per ml. of original water developing at 37°C.	2	5
at 20° - 22°C.	8	5
Probable number of Coli-Aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. of original water	0	0
Remarks.	Satis-factory.	Satis-factory.

(d) The total number of new connections with the public supply was 193 - in Dursley 22, Cam 26, Slimbridge 2, Uley 5, North Nibley 82, Nympsfield 54 and Wotton-under-Edge 2.

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage.

The Box Road and Quarry extensions of the Cam sewers were completed and put into commission during the year. The Box Road system is worked by an electrically driven ejector which automatically lifts the sewage to the high level sewer. At the Quarry electrically driven pumps do this work.

2. Rivers and Streams.

One complaint of pollution to the brook near Nind Mill at Kingswood has been investigated and action taken to previous recurrence.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation.

(a) Number of earth closets, pail closets or improved privies constructed:

North Nibley ... 1 Uley ... 2

(b) Number of replacements of earth closets, etc., by W.C.'s:

Uley ... 5 Cam ... 5
North Nibley ... 1.

(ii) Public Cleansing.

No extension or improvement was made during the year in the arrangements for public cleansing.

The disposal of refuse by burning on open tips, which was resorted to in some parishes, had to be abandoned owing to war

conditions. As a result more intensive anti-rat measures had to be applied.

Repairs and replacements have been carried out to the refuse destructor. New fire-bars and fire-brick linings have been fitted and the door repaired.

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

(a) Inspections made	146
(b) Nuisances discovered or reported: Total	60
" " Swine only	0
(c) Complaints received	63
(d) Informal or Preliminary Notices sent ...	23
(e) Statutory Notices sent	1
(f) Nuisances abated	47
(g) Summonses issued	0
(h) Convictions obtained	0

Numbers inspected of each of the following:-

	No. on Register.	No. Inspected.	Total No. of Inspections.
(a) Common Lodging Houses	-	-	-
(b) Bake-houses	23	23	40
(c) Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops	200	192	223
(d) Canal Boats	-	-	-
(e) Workshops.	43	43	48

(iv) Shops and Offices.

Number inspected: 46 Number of inspections: 97

No action was taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, or under the Public Health Act, 1936.

(v) Camping Sites.

(1) Number of sites used for camping purposes - Nil.
(2) Number of sites in respect of which licences have been issued under Section 269 P.H.A. 1936 - Nil.

(vi) Smoke Abatement.

Observations made: Nil. Complaints received: Nil.

(vii) Swimming Baths and Pools.

There is one Swimming Pool (open air) in the district.

(viii) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

(a) Number of houses found to be infested:

Council: 1 Other: 0

(b) Number of houses disinfested:

Council: 1 Other: 0

4. Schools.

All schools in the area were inspected and with the extensions to North Nibley and Nympsfield, water is laid on or is in close vicinity to every school.

SECTION D. HOUSING.

1. New Houses erected during the year.

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) 10

(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts:-

(1) By the Local Authority 10

(2) By other bodies or persons ... ... Nil

(c) Proposed under Housing Acts ... ... Nil

2. Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 12

(b) Number of inspections made 20

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925 ... ... Nil

(b) Number of inspections made ... ... Nil

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 1

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 11

3. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 5

4. Action under Statutory Powers. ... ... Nil

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

By informal action, improvements to the drainage and sheds have been made in 6 cases.

(b) Meat.

With the exception of emergency slaughtering animals are slaughtered for food at the regional abattoir at Ebley near Stroud. 15 pigs and 3 sheep were slaughtered with permission of the Food Control Office or for emergency reasons.

The following meat was found unfit for human consumption and destroyed:-

14 lbs bacon	1 leg of lamb
58 lbs veal	1 whole carcase of a sheep

2 sides of pork (45 lbs).

Three cases of Coenurus Cerebralis were found amongst sheep which necessitated the seizure of the heads.

SECTION F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

DISEASE	Total cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	16	3	-
Diptheria	4	4	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Polimyelitis	-	-	-
Pneumonia	10	-	6
Erysipelas	6	1	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	3	3	2
Measles	383	-	-
Whooping Cough	22	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-

Analysis of total notified cases under age-groups:

DISEASE	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 yrs and over	TOTAL.
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	1	7	3	1	-	-	-	-	16
Diphtheria	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	4
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	3	1	2	10
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	2	6
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	3
Measles	6	23	30	31	28	176	63	19	7	-	-	-	383
Whooping Cough	3	4	2	-	6	5	1	-	1	-	-	-	22

Artificial immunization against diphtheria is provided by the Council and 45 children received 3 injections of 1 cc. of Toxin Antitoxin Floccules.

Tuberculosis.

New cases and mortality during 1940.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
25 -	6	-	-	-	2	2	-	-
35 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 -	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	10	2	2	0	3	4	-	-

There is an increasing tendency to leave notification of cases of tuberculosis to the County Tuberculosis Officer and consequently in several cases the first intimation received is that patients suffering from Tuberculosis have been admitted to hospital for treatment. In every case the Medical Officer of Health has written to the Tuberculosis Officer requiring notification on Form A.